Railway projects in Maharashtra

3012. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have shelved the Pachora-Jamner and Pune-Nagar-Nasik railway projects in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation for reconsideration of its decisions on the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) to (c) These projects had never been sanctioned and as such the question of shelving the projects does not arise. However, surveys for Pachora-Jamner gauge conversion and Pune-Nasik new line were completed in the year 2002-01 and could not be taken up because of unremunerative nature, constraint of resources and heavy throwforward of ongoging projects. Requests have been received for taking up these projects.

Railway land under possession of land grabbers

3013. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have since conduced a survey to know as to how much of their land whether along the tracks or around the railway stations is under the possession of the land grabbers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any plan has been finalized by the Railways to get the grabbed land vacated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) Approximately 1990 hectares of Railway land is under encroachment.

(c) and (d) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments from their land as per the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, and the Railways Act, 1989.